

Garrison's Mental Health Issue As He Widens Quiz

By David Murray

Controversial New Orleans Dist. Atty. James C. Garrison, currently under fire in a revival of two-year-old charges surrounding his Army medical discharge, Friday subpoenaed the new material witnesses in his investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Garrison, who has taken sharp issue with the findings of the Warren Commission report on the assassination, said the three witnesses—one from Nebraska and two from California—were in Dallas prior to the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, and were in contact with Jack Ruby "and other individuals involved in the assassination."

Jack Ruby, a Chicago-born night club operator in Dallas, shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, presumed killer of President Kennedy, in Dallas police headquarters two days after the assassination.

Ruby, who had been convicted of the murder of Oswald, died this year.

GI Discharge Recalled

Published reports, said Friday that Garrison, who earlier this week caused an arrest warrant to be issued against another figure in the independent investigation, had been given a medical discharge from the Army in October, 1951, after an Army medical

board had found him unfit for further service.

The reports echoed charges made in September, 1965, by New Orleans Criminal Court Judge Malcolm O'Hara, who was opposing Garrison in his bid for re-election as district attorney.

O'Hara charged on a television appearance in New Orleans that Garrison had been released from the Army for an "anxiety reaction" during the Korean War. On the television program, he produced and read from what he said was a photocopy of Garrison's Army medical records.

O'Hara is under temporary suspension from the bench in New Orleans following the disclosure in Chicago's U.S. District Court that a close associate of jailed teamster boss James R. Hoffa paid hotel bills, dinner tabs and transportation costs for him. O'Hara was a witness in Hoffa's defense at an appeal hearing in Chicago.

Garrison's Statement

Garrison admitted in 1965 that he had been medically discharged from the Army in 1951 but said that his breakdown was physical, not mental, as a result of contracting amoebic dysentery during Army service in Europe in World War II.

He said that after his discharge he was again ex-

amined and commissioned in the National Guard as a captain, and was twice promoted until he resigned from the guard in February, 1967, on the ground that his duties as district attorney did not permit him to attend the requisite number of meetings.

Garrison says he now holds the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Army's inactive reserve.

Report Quoted

Army sources familiar with the report on Garrison's mental condition in 1951 said it described him as having a "severe and disabling psychoneurosis of long duration," which, in the view of the medical board that reviewed the case, rendered him "totally disabled from the standpoint of military duty and moderately incapacitated in civilian adaptability."

His illness, according to the Army sources in Washington and authoritative persons in New Orleans who have copies of the report, existed before he went into the Army for a second time in 1951. His condition, the board found, was of a "type that will require long-term psychotherapeutic approach, which is not feasible in a military hospital."

Garrison's military records, official sources said, also disclosed that he was well-oriented and had no delusions or



JAMES C. GARRISON

hallucinations when he was undergoing psychiatric examination at Fort Sill, Okla., and at Brooke Army Hospital, San Antonio, Tex.

'Shy, Introverted'

He was described in the records as having been "a shy, somewhat introverted individual throughout life."

According to the medical records, the Washington sources said, Garrison described his symptoms openly and would tell doctors: "I know this sounds crazy, but this is how I feel."

At Brooke, a review board

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